



European
Network

NATIONAL REPORT GUIDELINE

Country: Italy

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1) **Organisation/programme** (max 3000 characters)

- Do you conduct any programme(s) for the domestic violence perpetrators at the moment? If yes, please describe it/them briefly. If not, please explain why
- What type of (other) activities regarding preventing domestic violence have you conducted within last four years?
- What would you define as your most significant success regarding violence prevention within the last four years?
- What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention in your organization within the last four years?

We conduct perpetrator programs at the moment and we have been since 2009. The program consists in 5 intake individual sessions. In these sessions there are privacy releases that are signed. These enables the Centre to contact partners and other agencies involved in the processes. Part of the intake process are questionnaires on risk assessment. Also there is a risk assessment done with the partner contact. The partner is invited to call the local domestic violence center. After the intake the men are invited to join a group, composed of 8-12 men. The groups lasts 1 year and has weekly frequency. At the end of this year men can choose to stay on or they, with a joint evaluation (leaders/man) decide to pass to a follow up group that meets one a month. All groups are co-lead by a male/female couple, while the

intake is usually done by a male operator. Presently we are holding 4 groups of which one is a follow-up group.

Within the last 4 years we have conducted workshops in schools, we have attended many public speaking events, television news programs and presentations at seminars and conferences. We have also filmed a video on fatherhood and violence.

Our most significant result in terms of violence prevention have been starting a series with a publishing house on violence prevention enabling us to enhance our public presentations on the topic and having been able through political networking to be heard in the process of emendaments of the most recent law on violence prevention being able to change the law to include perpetrator programs in the National plan.

The biggest obstacle/challenge has been trying to respect our guidelines on not subtracting funding from victim services and not being able to access other funds. Also there has been a strong hostility from some of the women's centers and feminist groups. We are also facing the challenge of weak training of professionals on the issues of domestic violence and thus having trouble strengthening the working networks. The economic crisis and general cut back on all public funding has been strongly averse to developing new services.

2) **Country** (max 1800 characters)

- The overview of general situation in your country regarding work with perpetrators (e.g. what has change in your country legislation within the last 4 years? Most important legal and policy measures implementation; In which way they helped?)
 - Do You know any other organisations/programmes in your country which deal with domestic violence prevention mostly by work with perpetrators? If yes please point them out
- Starting in 2009 we were the first Centre to work with perpetrators in Italy. At the time there was no legal provision and no legal framework specifically designed to work with violent men.

There is in the Penal System (c.d. Law Lanzarote n. 272/2012) provision for the treatment of sexual offenders, especially in the area of sexual abuse on children. These kinds of treatments are sometimes provided for in the penitentiary context.

Another provision that has NOT been applied to perpetrators and that again requires a conviction for a crime, is art. 47 comma 1 that allows people that have to serve a sentence lower than 3 years to not serve time in jail but to be put on probation with social services. In

these cases the sentence is suspended provided the person follows prescriptions that have been decided by Social Services and the Judge.

For men convicted there is the possibility to ask for probation measures that include a perpetrator program through the networking with the Probation Offices (UEPE. Ufficio Esecuzione Penale Esterna) D.P.R. 230/2000 (art. 1 and 27 and art. 118).

The law 612 bis issued in 2009 on stalking provides the victim with the possibility of asking the Head of Police to recall the stalker before formal charges are pressed. In these cases it would seem obvious for indications as to treatment be given although this is not mentioned in the law.

The law issued in August 2013 and passed as law on 15th October 2013, law n. 119 for the first time in Italian law explicitly mentions the possibility for the Head of Police to send a man to a perpetrator program. This is the first time that that perpetrator programs are explicitly mentioned. There is no obligation for the man to comply.

The law also provides guideline for the National Plan and in clearly states in point in the indications for fields of work of the National Plan it states: “promotion, development and activation, on all the national territory of actions, based on consolidated methodologies coherent with predisposed guidelines, for the rehabilitation and sustainment of subjects that have been violent in intimate relationships to enhance the possibility of rehabilitation and relapse control.”

Other programs present on National Territory:

- 1) Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti, CAM Florence and Ferrara
- 2) LDV, Liberiamoci dalla Violenza, Ausl Modena
- 3) Consultorio per Uomini, Caritas, Bolzano e Rovereto
- 4) Uomini non più violenti, Bergamo e Milano
- 5) CIPM, Milano
- 6) WhiteDove, Genova
- 7) Sportello per ascolto Disagio Maschile, Il cerchio degli Uomini, Torino
- 8) Project Solidea, 2 series of groups, Rome
- 9) Interpares, Trieste (meny)

3) **Best practices** (max 1800 characters)

- Point out the best practices in work with perpetrators existing in your organisation/country

- Can they be implemented in other organisations/countries? If yes – how? If no – why?

Best practices include the programs that have followed European guidelines, have through training and constant supervision.

There is also a very challenging and interesting experience in working with men that arrive voluntarily. This means that special and specific attention is called to motivation and keeping a very supportive climate. A specific best practice is the long (1 year) and very long term (three years with follow up) of the CAM program. The process of change needs constant support and the interruption of physical violence is only the very first accomplishment to interrupting all forms of violence. Special attention and sophistication is needed to uncover different forms of psychological violence.

Another interesting best practice is the involvement of the men that are attending the program in social change in domestic violence. Specific workshops on media and the communication on domestic violence are presented asking the men to get involved in finding communication that could enhance change with other men. This gives life to different forms of engagement on communication on violence, but also on social ideas and conditionings that the men might have shared before being asked to take a position on the issues. These kinds of programs could and should be implemented in other countries engaging men on programs of social change, through and innovative and creative process.

We are also studying different forms of integration of public and private services. There exists in Italy two prevailing models. One of public services that through the National Health Care System (LDV, Modena) are offering programs with social service, another promoted by the Private Sector with different kinds of funded project of conventions with Institutions (CMP, Milan).

There is also a third idea that represents an innovative and new best practice. The idea of structuring a private- public enterprise following new economic ideas on social welfare and different responses to the crisis of the welfare system in Italy. The Tuscan Region is building this project with CAM and the Health Care System as to be able to have a core space of services with a mix of private and public workers, while at the same time keeping the social and innovative structure of a private NGO researching the outreach programs for social change, communication and innovative ideas and projects.

4) **Needs and recommendations** (max 1800 characters)

- What has to be done in regard to prevent domestic violence in your country (mostly regarding to work with perpetrators)?
- Point out the most urgent, most important and most promising tasks and steps that should be focused on

The work in Italy has just begun in terms of work with perpetrators. First and foremost there is the need to provide guidance for the National Guidelines that are going to be predisposed for the National Plan. These Guidelines, that CAM has been called to consult on and that we have proposed should be included in the amendments of the law, will provide the direction for all the programs that will be provided throughout the country. There is also a debate on the advantages and challenges of leaving these programs to the National Health Care System that appear at this time collapsing under the pressure of the economic crisis and cuts. It seems like taking on this kind of challenge might not be the best way to provide quality services in the field of domestic violence. There also needs to be a serious training program for all service providers and especially for the judicial and police. The need to link perpetrator programs with existing service for victims and also looking at the network of service that are responding to domestic violence. There is the risk of a pathologizing idea of work with perpetrators coming on, that will separate the social and cultural critique from the clinical treatment of men. There is a need for a strong commitment to a community response and to perpetrator programs that share a gender based idea of violence and response that are accountable to victims. In this phase and also because feminist programs have disengaged from the process the risk is high that the responses that are provided for perpetrators don't place sufficient attention on the social and cultural basis of violence. This is also one of the reasons CAM has engaged in promoting a series of books on the topic and on various kind of public communication and media engagement.